

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
DALLAS DIVISION

ALICE MERRETT,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY,

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:17-cv-2479

(JURY)

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL  
AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT:

COMES NOW Allstate Indemnity Company and files its Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(a), as well as its formal Demand for Jury Trial, and in support thereof would show the Court as follows:

1. On August 16, 2017, Plaintiff Alice Merrett filed her Plaintiff's Original Petition in the matter styled *Alice Merrett v. Allstate Indemnity Company*, Cause No. DC-17-10139, pending in the 95<sup>th</sup> District Court of Dallas County, Texas in which Plaintiff made a claim for damages to her home under a homeowner's insurance policy issued by Allstate Indemnity Company.
2. Plaintiff served Allstate Indemnity Company with a copy of the Petition by certified mail, return receipt requested on August 23, 2017.
3. Defendant files this Notice of Removal within 30 days of receiving Plaintiff's Original Petition. *See* 28 U.S.C. §1446(b). This Notice of Removal is being filed within one year of the commencement of this action.

4. All pleadings, process, orders, and other filings in the state court action are attached to this Notice as required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(a) and are attached hereto as Exhibit “A.” A copy of this Notice is also concurrently being filed with the state court and served upon the Plaintiff.

5. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1441(a) because this district and division embrace Johnson County, Texas, the place where the removed action has been pending.

## **II.**

### **BASIS FOR REMOVAL**

6. Removal is proper based on diversity of citizenship under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a), 1441(a) and 1446.

7. Plaintiff is, and was at the time the lawsuit was filed, a citizen and resident of the State of Texas and owns the property in question which is located in Dallas County, Texas (Petition, para. 1).

8. Defendant Allstate Indemnity Company is an Illinois corporation with its principal place of business in Illinois and is a citizen of the State of Illinois for diversity purposes, and therefore, complete diversity exists.

#### **A. The Amount in Controversy Exceeds the Jurisdictional Requirements for Subject Matter Jurisdiction**

9. This is a civil action in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant is liable under a homeowners’ insurance policy because Plaintiff made a claim under that policy as a result of a storm and Defendant wrongfully adjusted and denied that claim. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges damages to the property of over \$100,000, but not more than \$200,000. (Petition, para. 4).

10. In addition, the Plaintiff's Original Petition alleges that Defendant is liable under the Insurance Code and is seeking exemplary damages, interest and attorneys' fees. (Petition, para. 15-26).

### **III.**

#### **THE REMOVAL IS PROCEDURALLY CORRECT**

11. Defendant was served with the Plaintiff's Original Petition on August 23, 2017. Defendant filed this Notice within the 30 day time period required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

12. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), the removed action is proper in this Court as the district and division embracing the place where the state court action is pending.

13. As required by 28 U.S.C. §1446(a) and Rule 81.1 of the Local Rules, all pleadings, process, orders, and all other filings in the state court action previously filed are attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), promptly after Defendant files this Notice, written notice of the filing will be given to Plaintiff.

15. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(d), a true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal will be filed with the Clerk of the Dallas County District Court, promptly after Defendant files this Notice.

16. Defendant hereby demands a trial by jury.

**IV.**

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, the exhibits submitted in support of this Removal and other documents filed contemporaneously with this Notice of Removal and fully incorporated herein by reference, Defendant Allstate Indemnity Company hereby removes this case to this court for trial and determination.

Respectfully submitted,

**STACY | CONDER | ALLEN LLP**

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/s/David G. Allen

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**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT  
ALLSTATE INDEMNITY COMPANY**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

On September 14, 2017 I electronically submitted the foregoing document with the clerk of court for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, using the electronic case filing system of the court. I hereby certify that I have served all counsel of record electronically or by another manner authorized by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5(b)(2).

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/s/ David G. Allen

David G. Allen